

# EXHIBIT A

## **Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board, Inc.**

May 18, 2004

Joe Simon  
14 Langton Street  
London SW 10 OJH  
ENGLAND

Dear Mr. Simon,

It is the opinion of the Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board that the work you submitted "Self Portrait," marked by the Board "B101.021" and "B138.032" on the verso, is not a work by Andy Warhol for the following reasons:

- The series of self-portraits that Andy Warhol made in early 1964 consists of a group of works of the same size, produced from the same photographic source. Eleven works of this type have been documented by the editors of the Andy Warhol Catalogue Raisonné thus far. Each work in this series is different from all the others as noted below. This is not the case with respect to the work you submitted to the Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board.  
To date, ten paintings have been examined by the Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board that are identical to each other and to the work you submitted. The existence of ten identical works is without precedent in the corpus of Warhol's paintings.
- The background of the self-portraits that Andy Warhol made in early 1964 is painted by hand; and each background has been painted a different color. The background of the painting you submitted and the backgrounds of the nine identical examples are printed, not hand-painted.
- The eyes, skin tones, and the silver hair in the self-portraits that Andy Warhol made in early 1964 are hand-painted; the color of the eyes varies from work to work. The eyes, skin tones, and hair in the work you submitted and in the nine identical examples are printed, not hand-painted.
- The only aspect of the self-portraits that Warhol made in early 1964 that is printed is the black silkscreen impression, printed over the areas of hand-painted color. Each impression varies among the works made by Warhol, as does the registration of the black screen over the areas of hand-painted color. This is not the case with respect to the work you submitted and the nine identical examples.
- Warhol's self-portraits of early 1964 were all made on linen. The work you submitted and the nine identical examples were made on cotton.

525 West 20 Street, 7th floor	David Whitney, President
New York NY 10011	Robert Rosenblum, Treasurer
Telephone: 212.727.1735	Neil Printz, Secretary
Facsimile: 212.242.2836	Sally King-Nero

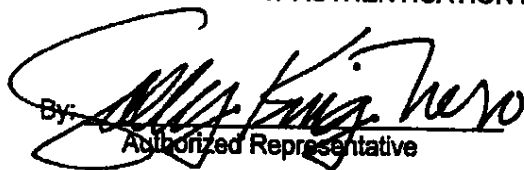
- Warhol's self-portraits were produced from a photograph that he submitted to the silkscreen fabricator with his instructions on a paste-up mechanical. The photograph in the mechanical was reproduced by the silkscreen fabricator onto a photo-sensitive silkscreen. The silkscreen was used by Warhol to depict the outlines of the head and the features of the face. The tones from the photograph seen on the canvas as a pattern of black dots are known as halftone. The density of the halftone in the work you submitted to our review and in the nine identical examples is reduced, as compared to the density of the halftones on Warhol's early 1964 canvases, indicating the work you submitted and the other nine identical works examined by the Board were not made from the same silkscreen that Warhol used to make this series of work in early 1964.
- Finally, as part of its research, the Board learned that the work you submitted and the nine identical examples were printed by a commercial printer in 1965. This printer claimed that he received materials and specifications from another party, and had never had any contact with Warhol himself.

This contradicts the way Warhol worked. To be as precise as possible, during the 1960s Warhol's paintings were made in his studio. Only the screens that he used to make his paintings were fabricated outside the studio. However, these silkscreens were reproduced from a paste-up mechanical that was made by Warhol; the silkscreens were fabricated by printers whom Warhol had worked with on a regular basis; and were then printed in Warhol's studio. Moreover, silkscreen printing was part of a more complex process of making a painting that characteristically included areas of hand-painting. These paintings were made by Warhol himself or by Warhol with the help of a studio assistant, who worked directly under his supervision. The Board knows of no independently verifiable documentation from the period in question, 1964 through 1965, to indicate or to suggest that Warhol sanctioned or authorized anyone to make the work that you submitted to our review or the nine identical examples. This letter is provided to you subject to the terms and conditions of the Letter of Consent dated December 21, 2001 and January 31, 2003.

The Board trusts that this will explain the criteria of its opinion.

Sincerely,

ANDY WARHOL ART AUTHENTICATION BOARD, INC.

By:   
Authorized Representative